

SENATE BILL 2437

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,
Chapter 6, Part 2, relative to workers'
compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-218(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) Upon appointment, each judge of the workers' compensation appeals board shall serve a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed for up to two (2) additional terms by the governor upon expiration of the initial term. The governor shall designate one (1) of the judges as the presiding judge, who, in addition to performing the duties of a judge on the workers' compensation appeals board, shall administer the day to day operations of the workers' compensation appeals board and supervise the activities of the workers' compensation appeals board judges. Service of more than half of a six-year term constitutes service of one (1) full term. A judge appointed to the workers' compensation appeals board to serve less than a full term to fill a vacancy is eligible to serve up to an additional three (3) full terms. In the initial appointment of judges to the workers' compensation appeals board, one (1) judge appointed shall serve a term of two (2) years, one (1) judge appointed shall serve a term of four (4) years, and one (1) judge appointed shall serve a term of six (6) years.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225(a)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(1) If a party is dissatisfied or aggrieved by a workers' compensation appeals board decision to certify a compensation order of the court of workers' compensation

claims as final, then the party may appeal to the supreme court, where the cause shall be heard and determined as provided in the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225(a)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) Review of the court of workers' compensation claims' findings of fact are de novo upon the record of the court of workers' compensation claims, accompanied by a presumption of the correctness of the finding, unless the preponderance of the evidence is otherwise.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-238(b)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(3) Upon appointment, the chief judge shall serve a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed by the administrator upon expiration of a term if the chief judge has served competently, responsibly, and impartially. Service of more than half of a six-year term constitutes service of one (1) full term. A chief judge of the court of workers' compensation claims appointed to serve less than a full term to fill a vacancy is eligible to serve up to an additional three (3) full terms.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-239(c)(7), is amended by deleting the last sentence of the subdivision.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.